

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03055 040921Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----098185 040933Z /23

O R 031555Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5642  
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 3055

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, EAID, JO, US, IS  
SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM PROJECT -NEXT STEPS

REF: A) STATE 073574, B) TEL AVIV 4000, C) STATE 075679

BEGIN SUMMARY: BELIEVE IT PREMATURE ATTEMPT RESPONSE TO ALL  
IMPORTANT POINTS RAISED BY DEPARTMENT IN LIGHT OF MAJOR  
TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON MAQARIN WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY.  
GOJ AND WE MAY WISH CONSIDER POSTPONING MAQARIN PLEDGING  
SESSION TO ALLOW TIME FOR RESOLUTION. AGREE WEST BANK WATER  
STUDY USEFUL AND SHOULD GO AHEAD. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE  
GOJ WILL ASSURE ISRAELI AND WEST BANK RIPARIAN RIGHTS RAISED  
REF A. END SUMMARY.

1. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S USEFUL REVIEW OF CONCERNS AND  
PROBLEMS REF A. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE  
TO ATTEMPT DEFINITIVE RESPONSE NOW. AS DEPARTMENT POINTS OUT,  
THERE ARE NUMBER OF IMPORTANT TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, SUCH  
AS DROP INLET (REF C), DAM HEIGHT, ETC., WHICH NEED  
FURTHER STUDY. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED FROM  
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GOJ LATEST REPORT OF SUPERVISING CONSULTANTS WHICH  
RAISES DETAILED QUESTIONS ABOUT GEOLOGIC SITUATION AT  
MAQARIN SITE, WITH POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR DAM HEIGHT,  
SITING AND HENCE PROJECT COSTS. REPORT SUGGESTS FURTHER  
EXTENSIVE GEOLOGICAL TESTING AND SURVEY WORK MAY BE  
ADVISABLE.

2. IN LIGHT OF THESE PROBLEMS WE SEE NO IMMEDIATE NEED TO ADDRESS POLITICAL SITUATION (PARA . 2, REF A), AS IT SO DEPENDENT ON FINAL SHAPE OF PROJECT WHICH WILL BE AS MUCH DETERMINED BY TECHNICAL AS POLITICAL FACTORS. WE BELIEVE TECHNICAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 8 SHOULD FOCUS ON UNRESOLVED TECHNICAL ISSUES, HOWEVER, WE MAY WELL WISH CONSIDER WITH GOJ POSTPONING PLEDGING SESSION DEPENDING ON THE FORM THAT TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL GIVE TO PROJECT. THIS SHOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE CONSIDERED FOLLOWING TECHNICAL MEETING. WE WILL OF COURSE HAVE QUESTIONS RAISED REF A FULLY IN MIND IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ AND IN TECHNICAL MEETING. WE BELIEVE ANY QUESTIONS ARISING FROM POLITICAL ISSUES AT TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ARE PRESENTLY MANAGEABLE BY GOJ ON BASIS OUR PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM.

3. WE CONCUR THAT WATER AVAILABILITY FOR WEST BANK IS IMPORTANT ISSUE. THE GOJ OF COURSE CONTINUES TO AGREE THAT THE WEST BANK IS ENTITLED AS A RIPARIAN TO WATER FROM BASIN RESOURCES INCLUDING YARMOUK AS IT CAN BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED AND AS POLITICAL CONDITIONS PERMIT. THE GOJ PLANS NOTHING IN MAQARIN PROJECT WHICH WOULD FORECLOSE SUBSTANTIALLY FULL UTILIZATION OF YARMOUK WATER, INCLUDING SOME FUTURE APPORTIONMENT TO THE WEST BANK IN CONSONANCE WITH THE JOHNSTON PLAN. WE TAKE DEPARTMENT'S POINT IN CONNECTION WITH MAQARIN HEIGHT, BUT DO NOT  
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BELIEVE WE HAVE ENOUGH TECHNICAL DATA AT THIS POINT TO REACH FINAL DECISIONS ON DAM HEIGHT, COSTS, CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND OR EVEN THIRD DAM AND OTHER TECHNICAL FACTORS, ALL OF WHICH ARE ALSO RELEVANT TO WEST BANK.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION , WE BELIEVE U.S. MESRF FUNDING OF STUDY BY HARZA WHICH WOULD EXAMINE WEST BANK WATER AVAILABILITY QUESTION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS IS EXCELLENT IDEA. WE SEE NO REASON WHY GOJ WOULD NOT ACCEPT U.S. FUNDED STUDY AND INTEND IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO DISCUSS WITH GOJ. EMBASSY TEL AVIV MAY WISH COMMENT ON OOI'S PRESENT VIEW ON PROJECT.

5. REGARDING FLOW OF WATER FOR ADASIYE TRIANGLE, JORDANIANS ACCEPT ISRAELI 25 MCM FIGURE AND WE BELIEVE THEY WILL PROVIDE IT DURING DRY SEASON. WHETHER THEY ADOPT DROP INLET OR WEIR SUBJECT TO A SHARING OF SHORTAGES ARRANGEMENT. (HARZA STUDY MAKES THIS CLEAR). IT WORTH NOTING THAT UNTIL ONE OR MORE ADDITIONAL DAMS BUILT TO UTILIZE FULLY YARMOUK WATERS ISRAEL WILL HAVE BENEFIT OF 25 MCM FROM MAQARIN, PLUS FLOOD WATERS NOT CONTROLLABLE BY PROJECT STRUCTURES. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT IF GOI DOES NOT ALLOW

CONSTRUCTION OF WEIR, MORE THAN 25 MCM WILL FLOW TO  
TRIANGLE DURING DRY MONTHS DUE TO INEFFICIENCY OF DROP  
INLET. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE GO'S RIPARIAN RIGHTS ARE  
NOT ONLY BEING ADEQUATELY PROTECTED, BUT ITS WATER NEEDS  
FOR FORESEEABLE ARE BEING WELL CATERED FOR IN  
ADDITION.  
PICKERING

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, EAID, JO, US, IS  
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